



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Chiari malformation, often referred to as CM, is a serious neurological disorder that affects more than 300,000 people in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: The disease was first identified by Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890s and is categorized in order of severity: CM types 0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, and 4; and
- WHEREAS: Chiari malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance. These defects create pressure on the cerebellum and brainstem and may block the normal flow of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain; and
- WHEREAS: Symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and may include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred or double vision, difficulty swallowing, and sleep apnea; and
- WHEREAS: The underlying cause of Chiari malformation is unknown, but scientists believe it is either a congenital condition caused by exposure to harmful substances during fetal development or a genetic condition, as it may appear in more than one family member; and
- WHEREAS: Increased awareness and understanding of Chiari malformation is necessary to continue meaningful research to discover a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by the condition; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations including the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the U.S. National Institutes of Health conduct research to find alternative surgical options, provide support, educate the public on the condition, and work to identify the cause of Chiari malformation to create improved treatment and prevention plans; and
- WHEREAS: During Chiari Malformation Awareness Month, patients, parents of patients, and other members of Georgia communities, including Ashburn and Augusta, will participate in the annual Conquer Chiari Walk Across America; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF